(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(c) if no, action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when this association would be recognized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OE PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Though a number of representations continue to be received, as per extant policy, service associations formed exclusively by SC/ST employees or any other group of such employees where the membership is not open to all Central Government employees other than those belonging to these groups, are not considered for recognition in the interest of unified Civil Service.

Inclusion of New Subjects in Civil Services Examinations

2709. MISS FRIDA TOPNO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider including Operational Research/ Applied Operational Research and Information Technology as one of the optional subjects in UPSC Civil Services Examinations so that the candidates of these subjects get an opportunity to appear in these examinations;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OE PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No proposal has been received by the Government from the Union Public Service Commission to include new subjects like Operational Research/Applied Operational Research and Information Technology as one of the optional subjects in Civil Services Examinations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to States

2710. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the additional financial assistance demanded by the State Governments during each of the last two years;

(b) the amount allocated by Government, year-wise and plan -wise during the above period;

(c) whether the additional assistance demanded in the current year has been provided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) As part of the Central assistance to State plans, the Central Govt. provides additional financial assistance (ACA) to States. ACA is allocated to States both for reimbursing expenditure on Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) as well as for financing of other project specific schemes (*e.g.* Border Area Development Programme, Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana, Accelerated Power Development Programme etc.) and special problems. The allocation of ACA under different heads to a particular State in any given year is not necessarily linked to any particular demand made by a State, but is decided depending upon the specific circumstances of the State, during the Annual Plan discussions of that State between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister of the State. The amount of ACA allocated by the Planning Commission to the State Govts. during the last two years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is indicated in the statement (*see* below). Details of ACA allocations made in the financial year 2001-02 are not available at present.

Statement

Amount of Additional Central Assistance Allocated to States During 1999-2000 and 2000-01

(Rs. Crores)

	1999-2000	2000-01
ACA for externally aided projects	12860.74	11084.69
Other ACAs	9698.38	10471.95

Conversion of Government Schools into Military Schools in Gujarat

†2711. Dr. A. K. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Central Government to convert Government schools functioning near the Pakistani border into military schools;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.